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72.(new) The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising the textual titles being stored in a memory location separate from a storage of the directory of the video programs recorded on the recording medium.

REMARKS

The above identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

Claims 1 - 3, 7, 10 - 15, 17, 19 - 22, 25 - 49 are now in the application. Claims 4 - 6, 8, 9, 16, 18, 23 and 24 have been canceled.

Claims 1 - 3, 7, 10 - 15, 17, 19 - 22, 25 - 27 have been amended. Claims 28 - 72 have been added.

The Official Draftsperson has objected to the Drawings. Appropriate corrected formal drawings will be provided upon receipt of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 - 3, 5, 19 and 20 - 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Yamagami. The Examiner has also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103: Claim 4 as being unpatentable over Yamagami in view of Yuen et al. Claim 6 as being unpatentable over Yamagami in view of Birch et al.; Claims 7 - 12 as being unpatentable over Yamagami in view of Birch et al and Yuen et al; Claims 13 - 18 as being unpatentable over Yamagami in view of Birch et al., Yuen et al., and Ohno et al.

The Applicants have amended the currently pending claims to pursue claims relating an aspect of the present invention involving speech to text conversion. The Applicants are not abandoning the broader currently pending claims, but are pursuing such claims in co-pending application no. 09/952,930.

The Applicants' amended Claim 1 calls for ... A method for providing voice titles for video programs recorded on a recording medium comprising: ... recording video programs on the recording

medium;... generating audio signals of titles for the recorded programs; ... converting the audio signals to textual title signals and storing the textual title signals; ... displaying on a screen a directory of the video programs recorded on the recording medium; ... selecting one of the video programs from the directory; and ... converting a stored textual title signal corresponding to the selected video program to an audio signal to apprise a user of the voice title of the selected video program.

The Applicants submit that the invention as claimed in Claim 1 is neither taught, described or suggested in Yamagami even in view of video tapes being a well-known recording medium in the art.

In addition to the conversion of audio signals to text signals, the present invention provides for the recording and reproducing audio titles for video programs recorded on a recording medium. Such video programs are typically a display of a sequence of events as images over time, such as a broadcast television program. Such recorded video programs are a significant difference as to recorded still pictures, much the same as motion pictures are very much different from still photographs. Accordingly, the technology/equipment to record and display motion pictures is significantly different from the technology/equipment to record and display still pictures.

Yamagami, on the other hand, while providing audio titles, provides them for a digital electronic camera for recording still pictures and which records them on a memory card or hard disk.

The Applicants submit that there is no suggestion to combine the teaching of the recording and display of video programs with the teaching of the use of a digital electronic camera its associated operational processing components to record and display still pictures, and result in the invention as claimed in Claim 1 as amended. Further, the Applicants submit that combining inputted audio signals to complement recorded programs that have their own audio portions in addition to their video portions, in accordance with the

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present invention, would not be suggestive from the teachings of Yamagami, which supplies audio to non-audio, i.e., silent still pictures.

Accordingly, the Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not unpatentable over Yamagami.

Claims 2 - 27 are dependent on Claim 1. As such, these claims are believed allowable based upon Claim 1.

New claims 28 - 72 do not add new matter and are deemed to be similarly patentable for the same reasons set forth above for Claims 1 - 27.

Therefore, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Richard J. Paciulan", written over a horizontal line.

Richard J. Paciulan
Reg. No. 28,248
626/795-9900

RJP/cah

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

(Underlining indicating insertions. Brackets indicating deletions)

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph on Page 18, lines 3 - 20, is amended as follows:

FIG. 15 is a block diagram of an alternate configuration of a camcorder that includes a memory for storing digitized voice titles. FIG. 15 is very similar to FIG. 2, except that a digital memory 554 [154] has been added to the camcorder. An analog to digital converter and digital compressor 552 is coupled to amplifier 226 for digitizing audio input and is coupled to memory 554 in order to store the digitized audio into the memory. The memory can also be used to store a directory in the same manner as RAM 33 of FIG. 4. Upon command a voice title can be read from memory 554 and decompressed and sent to digital analog converter 556 and output via audio electronics 562 to speaker 564. Note that the audio amplifier 226 is coupled to the write head to write the audio onto tape 212 and that the read head 228 is coupled to speaker 564. In operation the user would press voice title button 222 to record a title, and then speak into microphone 224. The spoken title would be digitized and stored in memory 554. The voice titles in memory 554 can be accessed in the manner indicated in FIG. 14 by using controls 216.

The paragraph on Page 19, line 20 - 29, is amended as follows:

FIG. 17 shows a display of a segment directory on a display which could be a television or a display on the camcorder or VCR. As shown, a segment directory contains the date and time of each segment, the length of each segment and whether or not a voice title is available for the segment. The user selects a segment for playing by moving a cursor 692 to the desired segment. In FIG. 17 [21] the cursor 692 is at a segment which was recorded on January 31, 1994 at the time 15:50:10. The length of the segment is 45 minutes and a voice title is available as indicated by the Y (699).

IN THE CLAIMS

1.(amended) A method for providing voice titles for video programs recorded on a recording medium [video tape] comprising [the steps of]:

recording video programs on the recording medium [tape];
generating audio signals of titles for the recorded programs;

converting [recording] the audio signals [as voice] to textual title signals [titles] and storing the textual title signals;

displaying on a screen a directory of the video programs recorded on the recording medium [tape];

selecting one of the video programs from the directory; and
converting a [reproducing the] stored textual title signal [audio signal] corresponding to the selected video program to an audio signal to apprise a user of the voice title of the selected video program.

2.(amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [in which] the audio signal is generated while the video program is being recorded.

3.(amended) The method of claim 2, wherein [in which] the audio signal is converted to a textual title signal [recorded] while the video program is being recorded.

7.(amended) The method of claim 1 [6], wherein storing the textual title signals includes

[additionally comprising the steps of:

transporting the tape after the audio signal has been recorded; and]

transferring the textual title signals [audio signal] to a random access memory [(RAM)] for later use to select programs for playback.

10.(amended) The method of claim 7, further [9, additionally] comprising [the step of] recording in the random access memory [RAM]

with the stored textual title signal [the audio signal] other data to assist in the playback of the recorded program.

11.(amended) The method of claim 10, wherein [in which] the other data includes the recording medium [tape] location of the start of the recorded program.

12.(amended) The method of claim 10 [11], wherein [in which] the other data includes the length of the recorded program.

13.(amended) The method of claim 10 [12], wherein [in which] the other data includes voice title designations.

14.(amended) The method of claim 13, wherein [in which] the voice title designations include the day and time of recording.

15.(amended) The method of claim 13 [14], wherein [in which] the voice title designations include the length of the program.

17.(amended) The method of claim 10 [16], further [additionally] comprising [the step of] positioning the recording medium [tape] at the beginning of a video program responsive to the other data.

19.(amended) The method of claim 1, further [additionally] comprising [the step of] playing the selected video program.

20.(amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [in which the] generating audio signals of titles includes [step comprises] speaking the titles into a microphone.

21.(amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [in which the] generating audio signals of titles includes [step comprises] speaking the titles into a microphone contemporaneously with [the step of] recording the video program.

22.(amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [in which the]

displaying [step] displays voice title designations for the recorded video programs for which audio signals are converted [voice titles are recorded].

25.(amended) The [A] method of claim 1 [24], wherein [in which the] displaying includes displaying [step also displays] the textual titles for the recorded video programs.

26.(amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the stored textual title signals are [24; in which the converting step also includes voice titles being converted to] alphanumeric textual signals.

27.(amended) The method of claim 26, further [additionally] comprising [the step of] storing the alphanumeric textual signals in the random access memory [RAM].